

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound characterized in that it is chosen from:
- ~~the~~ a peptide represented by the sequence SEQ ID No: 1 below:

SEQ ID No: 1 Lys-Ala-Lys-Pro-Val-Gln-Lys-Leu-Asp-Asp-Asp-Asp-Asp-Gly-Asp-Asp-Thr-Tyr-Lys-Glu-Glu-Arg-His-Asn-Lys

and-also:

- ~~the~~ homologs of ~~this~~ said peptide exhibiting at least ~~60%~~ 80% similarity with the sequence SEQ ID No: 1 and comprising from ~~45~~ 20 to ~~40~~ 30 amino acids,

~~the derivatives of this peptide selected from:~~

~~the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of this peptide,~~

~~the functional fragments of this peptide,~~

~~the chemical analogs of this peptide, chosen from those in which:~~

~~one or more amino acids of the peptide sequence have been replaced with their D enantiomer;  
one or more amide peptide linkages (CO-NH) have been replaced with an isosteric linkage  
such as: CH<sub>2</sub>NH, CH<sub>2</sub>S, CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>, CH=CH (cis and trans), COCH<sub>2</sub>, CH(OH)CH<sub>2</sub> and  
CH<sub>2</sub>SO; one or more amino acids have been replaced with a non-natural amino acid,~~

~~the chemical derivatives of this peptide, chosen from: des-alpha  
amino peptide compounds; substituted N-alpha acyl derivatives of the form RCO-, in which R  
represents an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl or aralkyl group, that is linear, branched or cyclic,  
comprising from 1 to 50 carbon atoms; derivatives substituted on the C-terminal acid function  
with a group chosen from NH<sub>2</sub>, and alkyloxy, alkylthio or alkylamino of the form OR, SR or  
NHR, in which R represents an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or aryl chain or an aralkyl group, that is  
linear, branched or cyclic, comprising from 1 to 50 carbon atoms, derivatives carrying a  
pharmacophore substituent, polymers of this peptide.~~

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The peptide~~ A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein it is a functional fragment of the peptide SEQ ID No: 1 or said homologs capable of inducing an immune response.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) A protein consisting of a ~~peptide~~ compound as claimed in claim 1, coupled to a carrier protein.
7. (Withdrawn) An antibody produced by immunization of an animal with a peptide as claimed in claim 1.
8. (Withdrawn) The antibody as claimed in claim 7, produced by immunization of an animal with the peptide of sequence SEQ ID No: 1.
9. (Withdrawn) The antibody as claimed in claim 7 wherein it is a polyclonal antibody.
10. (Withdrawn) The antibody as claimed in claim 7, wherein it is a monoclonal antibody.
11. (Withdrawn) A fragment or derivative of an antibody as claimed in Claim 7 selected from the group consisting of Fab, F(ab')<sub>2</sub> and ScFv fragments.

12. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid that encodes a peptide as claimed in Claim 1.
13. (Withdrawn) A vector comprising a nucleic acid as claimed in claim 12.
14. (Withdraw) A recombinant cell comprising a nucleic acid as claimed in claim 12.
15. (Withdrawn) A nonhuman transgenic organism comprising a nucleic acid as claimed in claim 12 in its cells.
16. (Withdrawn) A nucleotide probe or primer comprising a nucleic acid as claimed in claim 12.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Withdrawn) A kit for detecting, *in vitro*, the presence of pathogenic leptospiral strains in a biological sample or contaminated water, comprising a probe or an oligonucleotide or a pair of primers as claimed in claim 16.
21. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound ~~peptide or a protein or an antibody or a nucleic acid~~ as claimed in claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier ~~support~~.
22. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 21, wherein it is a vaccine.

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23. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 21, wherein it is a preparation of anti-PP antibodies for therapeutic use.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Withdrawn) An antibody produced by immunization of an animal with a protein as claimed in claim 6.

27. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid that encodes a protein as claimed in claim 6.

28. (Withdrawn) A recombinant cell comprising a vector as claimed in claim 13.

29. (New) A compound according to claim 1 comprising the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of said peptide or said homologs.